



## News Release

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **AstroPower Expands International Marketing Staff**

January 10, 2000 -- Newark, DE: AstroPower, Inc. (NASDAQ:APWR) announced today an expansion of its international marketing staff with the additions of Derick Botha and Peter McKenzie as regional sales managers.

Derick Botha has joined the AstroPower commercial team as Regional Manager, Africa. Prior to joining AstroPower, Mr. Botha was General Manager of Pretoria based Africa Solar, the largest African module manufacturer and a leading supplier to regional rural power and telecommunications markets. At Africa Solar, Mr. Botha was directly responsible for procurement, manufacturing, and marketing functions. Before joining Africa Solar in 1997, Mr. Botha was a Divisional Director at Siemens Ltd. South Africa, where he held a variety of commercial positions in the Telecommunications and Power Transmission and Distribution divisions over a period of 20 years. For AstroPower, Mr. Botha will be based in Johannesburg, where he will direct the Company's activities in the rapidly growing African market.

AstroPower also announced that Peter McKenzie has joined the Company as Director, Asia Pacific Region. Mr. McKenzie has over 20 years of experience in the solar electric power industry. Prior to joining AstroPower, Mr. McKenzie led the commercial efforts at Hyderabad-based RES-PV, the largest Indian module manufacturer. From 1987 through 1997, Mr. McKenzie managed regional sales offices in Tokyo and Singapore for Showa Solar, a joint venture of ARCO Solar (later Siemens Solar) and Showa Shell Sekiyu KK. From 1978 through 1987, Mr. McKenzie held a variety of marketing and sales management positions with ARCO Solar based in Los Angeles and Hong Kong. From 1976 through 1978, Mr. McKenzie supervised the installation of one of the world's first solar electric powered radio-link telecommunications system in New Guinea. Mr. McKenzie will be initially working out of AstroPower's headquarters pending relocation to Singapore.

"Derick and Peter are two of the industry's most experienced and talented international marketing executives, and we are very pleased that they have joined our team," said Peter Aschenbrenner, AstroPower's Vice President of Marketing and Sales. "Currently, it is estimated that up to one-third of the world's population, or roughly 2 billion people, are still without electricity. For many of these people, solar electric power systems are the quickest and most cost-effective way to generate electricity for lighting and communications." Added Aschenbrenner, "Both Derick and Peter have extensive experience in the rural solar electric power business, and we believe that they can help AstroPower significantly expand our presence in this sector."

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## **About AstroPower**

AstroPower develops, manufactures, markets and sells photovoltaic (PV) solar cells, modules and panels for generating solar electric power. Solar electric power is used off the electric utility grid for many applications in the communications and transportation industries and in remote villages and homes. Solar electric power is also used in on-grid applications by existing electric utility customers to provide a clean, renewable source of alternative or supplementary electric power. In addition to its APex™ products, AstroPower manufactures and markets conventional single-crystal silicon solar cells and modules world-wide, and is also developing specialty photovoltaic devices and detectors. Currently the largest US-owned PV manufacturer, AstroPower is one of the world's fastest growing PV companies. The Company has leveraged and plans to continue to leverage its resources through research and development contracts with government research laboratories and agencies, alliances with corporate partners, and affiliations with strategic customers. For more information, please visit our web site at [www.astropower.com](http://www.astropower.com).

*This press release contains forward-looking statements that are made pursuant to the Safe Harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, as described in the Company's registration statement and periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. As a result, there can be no assurance that the Company's future results will not be materially different from those projected. The projections contained herein speak only of the Company's expectations as of the date of this press release. The Company hereby expressly disclaims any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any such statements to reflect any change in the Company's expectations or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which such statement is based.*

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